

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

FOR THE

QUEEN VICTORIA NIAGARA FALLS PARK

FOR THE YEAR

1888.

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TORONTO, 5th February, 1889.

The Honourable

JOHN MORRISON GIBSON, M.P.P.,

Secretary for the Province of Ontario.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, to be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Third Annual Report of the Commissioners for Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park, being for the year ended 31st December, 1888.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. S. GZOWSKI,

Chairman.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

FOR THE

QUEEN VICTORIA NIAGARA FALLS PARK.

TO THE HONOURABLE SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, K.C.M.G.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario.

May it please Your Honour:

As required by Statute the Commissioners beg to present the Third Annual Report of their proceedings in connection with the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park.

In their previous annual and supplementary reports the Commissioners have given, in a more or less fragmentary way as occasion required, pretty full information in respect to the work undertaken by them, on behalf of the Province, with a view to establishing a Provincial Park at the Falls of Niagara. Now, however, that the duties devolving upon them, in connection with the acquisition and development of the property has been so far performed as to allow the Park to be thrown open to the public on the 24th May last, it is perhaps desirable that a brief *resumé* should be given of the scheme from its initiation up to the close of the past year.

At the outset it should be recorded, as an interesting historical fact, that the conception of rescuing the environments of Niagara from the vandalic desecration of the preceding half century originated with the Earl of Dufferin, at an interview he had in 1878 with Governor Robinson of the State of New York. Upon the strong recommendation of the latter, Commissioners were appointed by the Executive of New York State in 1883, to acquire and establish what is now designated "The State Reservation of Niagara," which was formally opened on the 15th of July, 1885.

Believing that the work of restoring the scenery on the Canadian side of the river properly devolved on the Government of the Dominion of Canada, the Legislature of Ontario passed an Act in 1880 giving effect to that view and conferring on the Dominion, so far as it could, the requisite authority to proceed with the undertaking.

As, however, the Government of the Dominion did not avail itself of the provisions of the Act in question, the Legislature of Ontario, after patiently waiting five years for the Dominion to take action, passed an Act in 1885 enabling the work to be proceeded with.

This Act provided for the appointment of three persons who should constitute a Board of Commissioners by the name of "The Commissioners for Niagara Falls Park," who were to serve during pleasure and without compensation. The Board was charged with the duty of selecting such lands as were in their opinion proper and requisite "to restore to some extent the scenery around the Falls of Niagara to its natural condition, and to preserve the same from further deterioration; as well as to afford travellers and others facilities for observing the points of interest in the vicinity." For the purpose of ascertaining and determining the prices to be paid for the lands required, the Commissioners were authorized to negotiate with the owners, and, if they could not agree as to the price and terms, the question was to be referred for determination to the Provincial Arbitrators under the provisions of the Revised Statute respecting public works of Ontario.

The three Commissioners whose names are first subscribed to this Report were on the 21st of April, 1885, appointed, when they at once proceeded to the discharge of their duties. The greater portion of the remainder of 1885 was spent in making a careful inspection and survey of all the territory which, in their opinion, should form part of the proposed Park.

In fixing the boundaries the Commissioners had first to consider the object and scope of the undertaking, with the view of incorporating every essential feature and detail which the Act prescribed in the plan of restoration. Regard was then had to the judicious and careful expenditure of the funds entrusted to them; keeping this prominently before them, the Commissioners determined to recommend for expropriation only such properties and to such extent as were absolutely necessary for the accomplishment of the object in view.

Differing from the topographical outlines of the New York State Reservation, it was found that nature had so clearly marked out what should constitute the Ontario Park, that in determining its boundaries these natural outlines could neither be ignored nor changed. Commencing at the Clifton House and extending along the banks of the river for two and a half miles with ever changing views of both the American and Canadian Cataracts, the foaming rapids seen through spray and mist, and the whole framed in with the western back-ground of a beautifully wooded hillside, nature had formed one of the most beautiful and unique natural Parks on the continent,

The territorial area included within these natural boundaries comprises about 154 acres, all of which it was considered essential to acquire in order to ensure completeness of the general plan of restoration. The Commissioners, therefore, gave instructions to have the surveys made and the plans prepared, which, with their Report and recommendations, were transmitted to the Provincial Secretary for the consideration of the Government. On the 14th of December, 1886, an Order in Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, was passed, confirming "the selection of the said lands in the vicinity of Niagara Falls made by the said Commissioners and marked out and surveyed upon the ground as being the lands which, in their opinion, are proper to set apart for the purposes mentioned in the Act."

Immediately following the approval of the selected properties, the Commissioners were authorized to employ experts to value the lands, buildings and improvements in order that they might, if possible, agree with the respective owners as to the price and terms of payment. This work was completed in January, 1886, but as the Commissioners were unable to negotiate terms, except in two instances, the Solicitor for the Board, Mr. Æmilius Irving, Q.C., immediately proceeded with the preparation of the references to be submitted to the Provincial Arbitrators under the provisions of *The Public Works Act of Ontario*.

Some delay arose in commencing the arbitrations, but they were finally entered upon and practically completed before the close of 1886, with the result that the land and premises selected by the Commissioners were acquired for the purposes of the Park at a cost, including arbitration expenses, of \$436,813.24, as per statement.

It has been stated that the area of the Park is 154 acres. This, of course, embraces all the land as well as the water inlets forming the Dufferin Islands, lying between the edge of the Niagara river and the hillside, which forms the natural western boundary. It will thus be seen that the cost of the Ontario Park was \$2,836.45 per superficial acre. From the reports of the Commissioners of the New York State Reservation, it would appear that the area acquired for the State of New York was 107 acres, costing \$1,452,810.44 or about \$13,588.33 per superficial acre.

In instituting a comparison of the cost of the respective properties, it should be borne in mind that in arriving at the value of the land expropriated in both Parks, the arbitrators had to take into consideration not only the extent and position of the land and cost of improvements, but also their revenue bearing qualities.

With respect to the properties expropriated for the Ontario Park it was found that there were only two, of any importance, which required to be dealt with, as of a specially productive character—the "Macklem Estate" and the "Saul Davis estate," comprising museum, hotel, etc. The owner of the former derived a considerable revenue from the fees paid by visitors to the Islands and the Burning Springs on the property, and in the case of the Davis property a large and profitable business had been built up in connection with the museum and hotel. In the expropriation of the New York State Reservation the owners of the Prospect Park, with an area of only about fifteen acres, received as much, within \$100,000 for their property, as was paid for the entire Park in Ontario. This amount was allowed them on the ground of the very large revenue the Park was earning from entrance fees paid by visitors. In the case of Goat Island property, including the small islands, with an area of seventy-four acres, the proprietors received \$525,000, owing, of course, to the fact that the revenue from visitors was not nearly as large as at Prospect Park.

Having secured an appraisal of the lands in the manner prescribed by the Act, the Commissioners had then to devise and recommend to Government a scheme for the establishment and future maintenance of the Park. This necessarily brought up the question as to how the property and its proposed improvement were to be paid for. The Act provided that in case the Report of the Commissioners so recommended, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on giving notice that proposals would be received from companies willing to undertake the establishment and maintenance of the Park, subject to certain stringent conditions in respect to the raising of revenue from tolls, etc., might transfer to any trustees or to a company incorporated under the *Letters Patent Act*, the right of acquiring, for the purposes of a Park, the lands selected, at prices agreed or awarded, subject to ratification by the Legislative Assembly.

It will be obvious that on the proper solution of the problem of future maintenance largely depended the success or failure of the undertaking. Suffice it to say, that after the most careful and exhaustive consideration of the subject, the Commissioners arrived at the conclusion and reported to Government that it was not in the public interests that the Park and its franchise should, under any conditions, belong to a private company, and that the only policy worthy of adoption by the Province, in which the great natural wonder is placed was, that the Park should be the property of the Province, and its management entirely under Provincial control.

To provide means for payment of the land awards and partial improvements, the Commissioners recommended the issue of \$525,000 forty year bonds bearing four per cent. interest, which is to be a charge on the revenues of the Park ; with principal and interest to be guaranteed by the Province.

These recommendations received the approval of the Government, and the functions of the Commissioners appointed under the Act of 1885 were practically brought to a close by the acquisition of the Park. In order, however, to give effect to the final recommendations of the Commissioners, the Government passed an Act in the session of 1887 re-appointing the Commissioners, whose names are first subscribed to this report, who were to form a corporation by the name of "The Commissioners for Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park."

These Commissioners, as under the preceding Act, are to hold office during the pleasure of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and are to receive no compensation. The Act provides that the lands already selected and approved by Order in Council, as well as all other lands that may be acquired, shall be vested in the Commissioners as Trustees for the Province and authorized them in their corporate capacity to issue and dispose of debentures not exceeding \$525,000, bearing four per cent. interest, and to apply the proceeds of their sale in payment of the lands and in making the necessary improvements, constructions, appliances, etc., to be used in connection with the Park.

When the Act, just outlined, received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor, the number of Commissioners was increased to four by the appointment of Mr. John A. Orchard, of Niagara. The Board immediately appointed Mr. James Wilson, Civil Engineer, to be Superintendent of the Park.

Pending the preparation of the bonds and their being placed on the market, the Commissioners arranged for a temporary loan, with which they paid for such of the properties as immediate possession could be given, and after advertising for offers for the purchase of bonds in London (England), New York, Montreal and Toronto, they were finally disposed off at a premium of 1.84 per cent.

Plans for the improvement and development of the property were prepared and adopted and the works connected therewith, including the removal of old structures, fencing in the grounds, rebuilding the bridges, laying out and constructing new roads and paths in the place of the old roadways abandoned ; drainage of the lands ; construction of a hydraulic lift to enable visitors to go under the Falls, and a great many other works which are fully detailed in the Superintendent's Reports for 1887 and 1888 (*see Appendix*) were pushed forward with vigor. These works, however, were much delayed through the Commissioners not being able to obtain possession of many of the properties acquired, on which were old frame structures which had to be taken down and removed. In consequence of this delay, the Commissioners were unable to open the Park as soon as they expected, but on the 24th of May, 1888, it was, as is already stated, thrown open to the public.

Negotiations had been commenced in 1885 for the purchase of that part of the St. Catharines, Thorold and Niagara Falls macadamized road lying within the Park, between Table Rock and the northern boundary of the Park, opposite the Clifton House, and an award had been made by the Provincial arbitrators of the amount to be paid for the same. The transaction, however, could not be closed until the passing of the Act of 1887. The road was then legally acquired and paid for, together with the rights of the road company to collect tolls over the macadamized road between the Clifton House and the Suspension Bridge. The tolls were extinguished by Order in Council and the road made free to the public.

Authority was also given in the Act of 1887, under which the Lieutenant-Governor in Council might at any time vest in the Commissioners any portions of

the Crown Lands property of Ontario lying along the bank of the Niagara river, and not included in the original survey of lots laid out in the townships of Stamford and Niagara. Effect was given to this provision of the Act by the passing of an Order in Council on the 15th of July, 1887, vesting in the Commissioners, for the purposes of the Park, what is generally known and described as the Chain Reserve on the top of the bank between Table Rock and Queenston. Upon the passing of this Order in Council the Commissioners immediately notified all occupants on the reserve that it was their intention to take possession of the property for the uses of the Park, except the portion near the Clifton House known as the Ferry Road, leading down the cliff to the ferry over the Niagara river to the State of New York.

In March, 1887, the Commissioners became aware that it was claimed that a portion of the Chain Reservation thus acquired, belonged to the Dominion of Canada and not to the Province of Ontario. Advantage was taken of this by the commencement on the 2nd of June, 1888, under the terms of a license from the Dominion Government, and without the authority of the Government of Ontario or the Commissioners of Niagara Falls Park, of works connected with the construction of a tramway and inclined plane at a point near the Ferry road. The Solicitor for the Commissioners at once applied for an injunction to restrain the persons from proceeding with the work which would cause great injury and damage to the Park property. The injunction was granted, but the whole question being still before the Court, the Commissioners for the present refrain from comment upon it.

The accompanying map, prepared by Mr. Wilson, the Superintendent, will show the topography of the Ontario Park and its relations to the New York State Reservation, and all places of interest at the world-famed resort. The map also plainly shews the general plan of improvement and restoration.

At this point the Commissioners may be permitted to give the views of Messrs. Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, men who occupy the highest position in the United States as landscape designers, in respect to the magnificent Niagara domain that has become the property of the Province of Ontario, and the progress made in its development.

These eminent men refer to the Ontario Park in their Report to the New York State Legislature in the following terms: "In certain respects the New York Reservation has advantages over that of the Province of Ontario. There are greater beauties of a kind depending on refinement and delicacy, subtle qualities and natural elements of scenery largely apart from the actual cataract; greater beauties of a kind in which the nearness to the eye of illumined spray and the mist and fleeting waters, intricate disposition of leaves, with varied play of light and shadow, refractions and reflections and much else undefinable in conditions of water, air and foliage, are important parts. But there is no place within the New York Reservation from which, as from that of Ontario, a view of the entire face of the Falls, or a near view of either division of the Falls, can be had. To obtain even a quartering view of the American Fall it is necessary to leave the American shore."

"The topography of the Ontario Reservation is so large in scale, and the interest of what is to be seen from it, is so independent of all such details as contribute to make the charm of the New York part of the scheme, that even the broad military road that follows the brink of the Canadian cliff, strikes the eye as only an insignificant circumstance. In respect to the grandeur of the scenery, nothing can be offered on the New York side to compare with what is now to be had, even before any improvements are made, at any point upon a line nearly a mile in length on the heights of Ontario.

“From this results—not only the circumstances referred to, that a full view of the Falls can only be enjoyed from the Ontario side—but this other, that at no point within the New York Reservation can any but a distant view be had of either one of the Falls, except upon a line nearly raking its line of fall.”

The Commissioners of the New York State Reservation at Niagara, in their Report for the year 1887, write as follows: “An additional argument against longer delay in the development of the New York State’s domain at Niagara is furnished in the recent vigorous action of the Canadian authorities. At the date of our last annual report, only preliminary steps had been taken toward the rescue of the Canadian side of the Cataract. An appraisal had been effected of the lands needed to be taken. But within the past year the Government of Ontario has more than made up its arrearage of activity. In April last, the House of Assembly of the Province passed an Act authorizing the issue of bonds to the amount of \$525,000 to purchase and improve lands to be known as “The Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park.” The bonds, bearing four per cent interest and guaranteed by the Provincial Government, were immediately purchased. Of the proceeds, \$402,867 was required to meet the awards of the arbitration of appraisal, while more than \$100,000 remained available for work of improvement. Of this sum about \$26,000 has been expended, with excellent judgment, during the past season, the result being that the lead in the noble project of an international reservation at Niagara may now be said to be taken by our Canadian neighbours. It was the example set by this State which stimulated them to action, and the hope may be cherished that New York will not allow herself to be outdone in so generous a rivalry. The Canadian park proper comprises 118 acres of land, and extends from the Clifton House along and up the river bank a distance of two and one-half miles. The improvement already wrought upon this unequalled stretch of river front serves to bring out in strong light the need of corresponding work on the American side. Especially is the nakedness of the main bank of our reservation, with its unsightly back-ground of hotel and other structures, now more than ever conspicuous from Canadian points of view, and calls loudly for measures to restore what human occupancy has ravished and destroyed.”

Having thus sketched the history of the Park from its inception to its opening, we now come to the portion of the report relating to its maintenance. In this part of the report it will be necessary first to explain the efforts the Commissioners made to obtain the necessary revenue to meet the payment of interest on the bonds and the current expenses of maintenance. To a proper understanding of this question the following statement is given of the amount annually required for the payment of interest, cost of maintenance and necessary improvements:

Four per cent interest on \$525,000	\$21,000.00
Sinking Fund one per cent per annum	5,250.00
Salaries of Superintendent, Accountant and Guards, wages of labourers and materials for general improvements.....	15,000.00
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	\$41,250.00

It is thus shewn that \$41,250.00 is required to defray the annual expenditures and obligations in connection with the Park.

In their report to the Government, dated 16th day of March, 1886, the Commissioners dealt with the question of maintenance and revenue, and while

their estimate of the annual cost of maintaining the Park has been substantially corroborated by the actual expenditures of the past year, it must at once be admitted that the receipts from tolls are entirely below the estimate.

The provisions of the Act in respect to raising revenue are, that "Commissioners shall have power to take and collect tolls for the use of works, appliances, vessels, or works required to afford facilities to visitors to reach and view points of interest within the Park and involving the expenditure of money in construction and maintenance, as well as for the services to be rendered for the convenience or accommodation of visitors; and the Park grounds shall be open to the public subject to any rules and regulations as to charges and management approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council," and until a sufficient revenue for the purposes of paying the current expenses of the Park is obtained from the fees charged, the Commissioners are authorized to apply a portion of the money "raised from the sale of the debentures in that behalf."

It should here be stated that the conditions under which the New York Reservation was acquired differ entirely from those of the Province of Ontario. In the former case the awards of the lands expropriated became a charge against the revenues of the State of New York, and the properties were handed over to the Board of Commissioners as a gift from the State for the purposes of a Park.

In the case of Ontario, as previously shewn, the lands were paid for out of the proceeds of the sale of Provincial Guaranteed Debentures amounting to \$525,000; the principal of which is a charge against the lands, and the interest and sinking fund is a charge upon the Park revenue. The necessity therefore to collect tolls in the Ontario Park is much greater than on the other side of the river. In framing a tariff of tolls the Commissioners were guided by three considerations, (1) to raise the required revenue exclusively from tolls for the use of such artificial construction and appliances as well as for the services of guides so as to better enable visitors to view and enjoy certain points of special interest, (2) to assimilate as far as practicable the levying of tolls to the system prevailing on the New York State Reservation, and (3) to give effect to the policy that the general Park grounds with all the privileges thereof (except these special artificial appliances or guides if required) should be open and free to the public without charge. Following out this policy the following tariff in respect to tolls was framed by the Commissioners and approved by Order in Council.

1. Entrance of carriages and persons on foot to Park....Free.
2. For each person on foot for crossing the bridges connecting the Islands and use of artificial walks on Islands to view the Rapids.....10 cts.
3. For each carriage including all its occupants crossing the bridges connecting the Islands to view the Rapids; etc. .50 cts.
4. For each person using the hydraulic lift to go under the sheet of water, including clothing and services of guide.....50 cts.

It should be remarked that it was the intention of the Commissioners to make a charge of 25 cents for each carriage (including its occupants) that entered the Park, but as such a charge was not made on the New York side the proposed toll was not exacted. The only toll that calls for special explanation is that made

for the use of the bridges connecting the Dufferin Islands. In justification of this charge, it may be stated that in order to enable visitors to view the Falls and Rapids above the Falls, the Park, for all practical purposes, might have terminated at the southerly point of Cedar Island; thus effecting a saving in capital outlay of over \$100,000. It will, however, be admitted by all who have visited the Dufferin Islands and enjoyed their incomparable beauty and charming variety of scenery, that the Ontario Park would have missed its picturesque completeness had the Macklem property been left out of the Park domain. In acquiring it, however, the Commissioners had to incur expenditure not only in the original outlay for the land, but also for the costly bridges and structures which have to be maintained and kept up at a considerable charge to the annual maintenance. For these reasons it was decided that for the purpose of raising revenue the exaction of a small toll for the use of bridges, terraces, etc., was but reasonable.

With these remarks on the purpose and character of the tolls exacted, their revenue producing results from the opening of the Park on the 24th of May, 1888, to the 31st of December, 1888—a little over seven months—may now be given as follows:—

Tolls for use of Hydraulic Elevator and use of clothing, including service of guides.....	\$3,029 35
Tolls for going over the Island bridges.....	1,698 35
	<hr/>
	\$4,727 70

To fully comprehend the insignificance of the revenue thus received when compared with the number of persons who visited the Park, it will be necessary to give a synopsis of the return of visitors to the Park for the same period, as follows:—

Total number of carriages that entered the Park....	35,127.
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Number of visitors in carriages.....	127,254
“ “ on foot	86,620
	<hr/>
Total number of visitors.....	213,874

From this summary, it will be seen that 213,874 persons visited the Ontario Park in seven months, or an average of nearly 1,000 a day. The average toll collected was, therefore, a fraction under two and a quarter cents from each visitor. The astonishment and regret of the Commissioners at such insignificant revenue results are certainly not lessened when it is considered that of the large number of visitors no less than 127,254 were occupants of carriages, from which it may be fairly assumed that a very large proportion of them were of the classes in more or less comfortable circumstances, who, it might reasonably have been expected, would have availed themselves, even if at a trifling extra cost, of the use of the artificial appliances, which would have enabled them to see and enjoy to the utmost the infinite beauty and grandeur of the great natural wonder of the world.

In their valuable Report to the State Legislature, in connection with the New York State Reservation, the landscape experts remark that “people have been heretofore influenced by two motives to wish to see Niagara, one is that they may be astonished. People in whose minds this motive has been largely predominant have generally been disappointed in what they found. The removal that your

Board has made of various structures and ornaments that had been placed near the Falls has not lessened the disappointment of this class of visitors, and it may be safely assumed that no improvements that the State can make will increase the astonishing qualities of Niagara. The other motive with which people come to the place is that of the enjoyment to be obtained through the pensive contemplation of distinctive qualities of beauty in happily associated passages of natural scenery."

The primary object, apart entirely from the question of revenue, which the Commissioners had in view in the construction of the hydraulic lift, was to enable visitors to go under the sheet of water with comfort that they might "be astonished" and awed with the terrific volume and force of the great Cataract. And in acquiring the Dufferin Islands it was the aim of the Commissioners to gratify the visitor's sense of beauty and sublimity in the contemplation of the matchless charm of the natural scenery of these Islands.

The Commissioners are not prepared to admit at this early period in the history of the Park, that the comparative failure, during the past year, to obtain the expected revenue from the sources named is conclusive evidence of a lack of appreciation of the interesting points on the part of the visitors, or that the payment of the small toll exacted is the cause of the failure, but rather that the wonderful effects and beauties of the points of interest referred to are not yet fully known to the public.

On the New York side of the river the collection of the revenue, even after the experience and efforts of four years, have proved equally delusive. There, the tolls are somewhat similar to our own, viz.: (1) tolls from the inclined railway; (2) rental of points of interest and convenience, and (3) franchise of the carriage service. From all these sources, under \$10,000 were received in 1887, and it was estimated that only \$8,000 would be obtained in 1888. In consequence of these small receipts the State, in addition to transferring the Park to the Commissioners as a gift, has had to supplement the revenue receipts in order that the annual expenses might be defrayed. The Superintendent of the New York Reservation attributes, to a large extent the failure to raise revenue, to a combination of the hack and livery men by which visitors are taken to bazaars and places outside the Reservation where, it is alleged, the drivers received commission on the sale of goods and for the patronage brought to such places. The Commissioners are fully aware that similar practices have seriously operated against the revenues of the Ontario Park, and in order to overcome the difficulty it may become necessary to take such steps as will effectually put a stop to the misrepresentation, and not infrequently fraud and extortion, that has been resorted to by this class, who more than any other, have proved a curse to the locality.

The Commissioners, after much consideration of the question, are forced to admit, that even under improved conditions, the sources from which the revenues are now drawn will prove inadequate to meet the annual cost of maintaining the Park, exclusive of the payment of the interest and sinking fund on the debentures. In view of this the Commissioners have given a great deal of thought during the past year to various measures, having for their object the augmentation of the revenue, and at the same time increased comfort and convenience of visitors to the park.

The first and most important of these is the promotion of an undertaking for the construction on the bank of the river, of an electric railway between the park and Queenston. Perhaps at no place on the continent of America are the conditions so favourable for building, attracting travel, and, from a financial view, successfully operating an electric railway than between the points named; the

locality is the most celebrated in the world, offering no engineering difficulties in construction, possessing inexhaustible means for the creation of electric power, with the finest views of the Falls, Whirlpool Rapids, Whirlpool and the gorges of the river in full view from observation cars from the beginning to the end of the line, all tending to increase the already great crowds of people from all parts of the world and constantly increasing local travel between Toronto, Niagara Falls and Buffalo. With all these advantages, the privilege to construct a railway along the banks of the river should, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be a most valuable asset for the purpose of increasing the annual revenue of the park. Believing this to be the case a survey of the route is now being made, and when completed the Commissioners propose asking the consent of the Government to advertise for proposals for the acquirement of the franchise for a term of years to be agreed upon.

The second scheme for increasing the revenue and greatly improving the means of seeing and enjoying the Park, is the establishment of a line of coaches to run at stated times between the Mowat and Dufferin Gates.

The third is the leasing of part of the old Museum for the purposes of a restaurant, the want of which is a very serious inconvenience at present. As these two last schemes are commented on by the Superintendent in his report, it is unnecessary to make further reference to them, except to express the hope that a not inconsiderable annual revenue will be derived from these two sources, as well from the right to take and to dispose of photographic views within the Park grounds—the whole to be under the supervision and oversight of the Superintendent of the Park.

The receipts and expenditures for the year ended 31st December, 1888, were as follows:—

Receipts.

Balance at credit in Imperial Bank of Canada, 1st January, 1888..	\$165,109 65
Received from sales of old structures, material, etc.	1,143 50
“ from Hydraulic Lift tolls	\$3,029 35
“ from Island Bridges tolls	1,698 07
	<hr/>
“ from Imperial Bank for interest on moneys at credit....	4,727 42
	4,090 39
	<hr/>
	\$175,070 96

Expenditures.

Amount paid for land awards, including cost of arbitrations, legal expenses, etc.	\$82,286 02
Salaries and wages, including wages of labourers, etc., in connection with works of improvement, etc..	13,683 89
Paid for contracts, material, etc., in connection with works of improvement, etc.	12,236 48
Paid coupon interest and bank commissions	21,061 66
Balance at credit in Imperial Bank, 31st December, 1888	45,802 91
	<hr/>
	\$175,070 96

The following summarized statement exhibits the entire receipts and expenditures connected with the Park up to 31st December, 1888 :—

Receipts.

Sale of Bonds.....		\$534,667 14
Sales of old structures, etc., in 1887.....	\$1,142 05	
“ “ “ 1888.....	1,143 50	
		2,285 55
Revenue from visitors in 1887	1,716 25	
“ “ 1888	4,727 42	
		6,443 67
Interest from Imperial Bank, 1887	4,038 06	
“ “ 1888	4,090 39	
		8,128 45
From the Government prior to sale of bonds.....		18,929 04
		<u>\$570,453 85</u>

Expenditures.

Amount paid for surveys, etc		\$3,547 69
Amount paid for lands, etc., 1887.....	\$350,979 53	
“ “ 1888.....	82,286 02	
		\$433,265 55
Amount new works, etc., 1887	26,045 93	
“ “ 1888	25,920 37	
		51,966 30
Interest on bonds, 1887-88 (18 months).....		31,500 00
Interest on temporary loan and for advertising and preparing bonds		4,309 74
Bank Commission.....		61 66
Balance in Imperial Bank, 31st December, 1888		45,802 91
		<u>\$570,453 85</u>

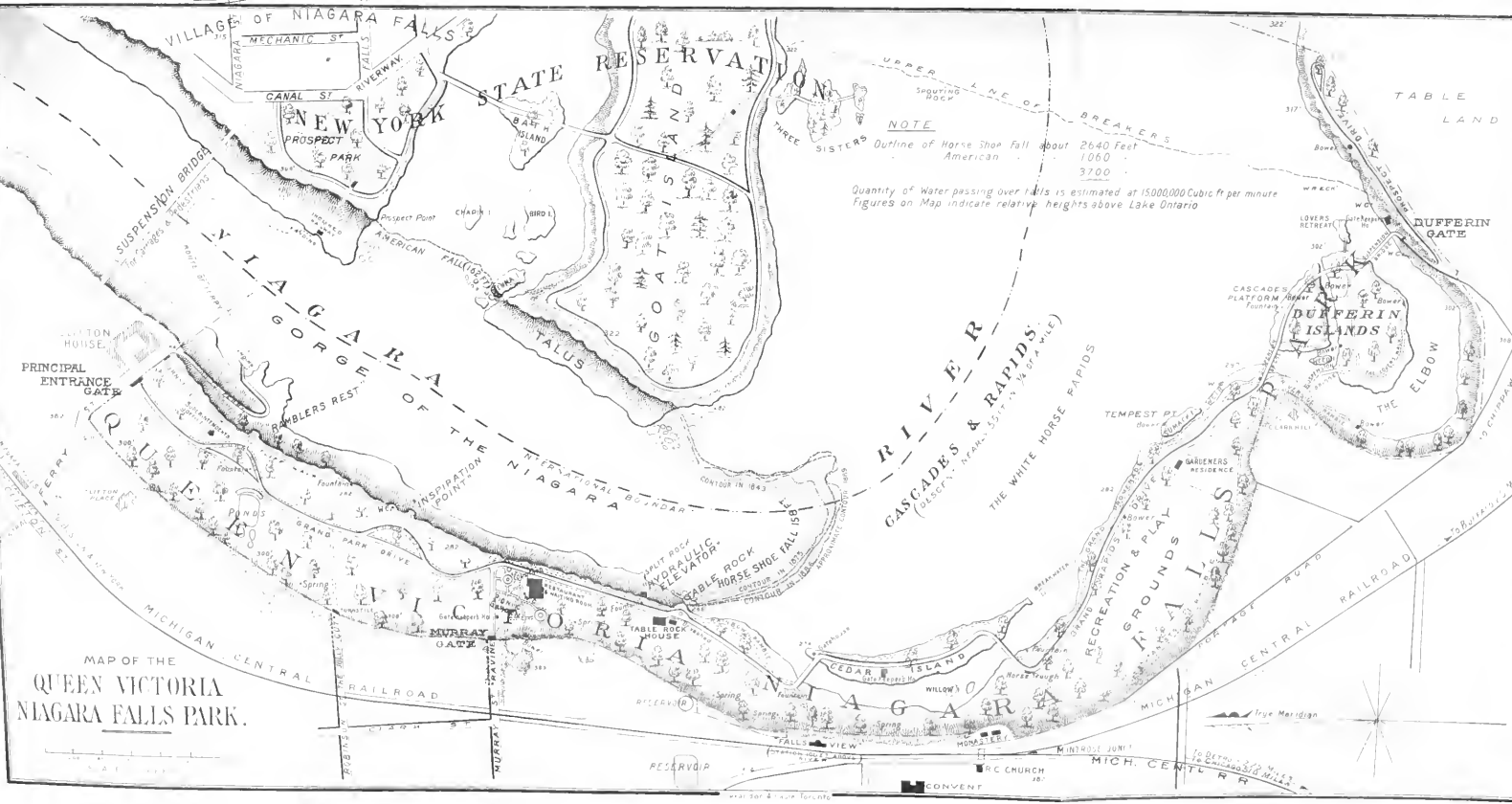
The report of the Superintendent and a tabular statement of the visitors to the Park, also a return of the officers appointed and the salaries paid to the same will be found in the Appendix. The map shewing the Park boundaries and the plan of improvement and restoration is also attached.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

C. S. GZOWSKI,
Chairman.

J. W. LANGMUIR,
J. G. MACDONALD,
JOHN A. ORCHARD,
Commissioners.

NYQ & H.R.R.
2nd St.



APPENDIX.

REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

QUEEN VICTORIA NIAGARA FALLS PARK,

ETC., ETC.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF QUEEN VICTORIA NIAGARA FALLS PARK

FOR THE YEAR 1888.

The Commissioners of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park :

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to submit herewith a Report on the works accomplished in the Park, under your directions, since my appointment as Superintendent on the 5th day of May last.

Immediately on receiving instructions from Colonel Gzowski, the Chairman of the Board, I proceeded to the Falls and assumed control of the properties which had at that time been acquired by the Commissioners. As many of these properties were cumbered with unsightly wooden structures of comparatively little value and useless for the purposes of the Park, they were disposed of by public auction on the 19th of May, and immediately removed. The tidying of the grounds and filling in of cellars, etc., followed, and by the end of June the general appearance of a large portion of the property had been greatly changed and improved.

Fencing-in of Grounds.

The boundaries of the Park had been clearly defined by iron monuments planted by Mr. McAree, P.L.S., but owing to the conformation of the lands embraced, it was considered necessary to enclose the whole by a substantial fence, having openings only where public entrances were required, according to the Act. As the boundary is for the greater part along the very steep slope which naturally defines the westerly and southerly limits, the construction of a fence proved difficult and tedious, involving much extra labour in distributing and handling materials. A seven strand barbed wire fence with stout cedar posts eight feet apart, was selected as the most efficient and economical. On the north boundary, or along the side of the Clifton House Mill Road, a neat iron post and plain wire railing was substituted.

Gates, etc.

The gates and registering turnstiles, which are to be placed at the several entrances, have been procured but they have not been put in position. The northern or principal entrance will have an ornamental iron gate, which it is intended to place under a suitable covering of cedar work. The western and southern entrances will have cedar gates of neat design, with rustic coverings to suit.

Bridges

The bridges connecting with the several islands received early attention, and a large amount of work was required to place them in a safe and serviceable condition. The two Cedar Island bridges were found to be in a dangerous condition, and had to be almost entirely rebuilt—their proximity to the Falls, and consequently to the destructive influence of the spray, render them peculiarly liable to decay. A new and substantially built Howe truss was made to span the large opening of the bridge nearest Table Rock, the crib work piers were rebuilt where necessary, superstructures renewed and additional timbers provided, and all exposed wood work thoroughly coated with paint.

The two suspension bridges formerly designated "Castor" and "Pollux," together with the truss bridge near the latter, each received a thorough overhauling, new timbers being provided where required, and all exposed wood and iron work repainted.

The foot suspension bridge, leading from the beautiful walk around the base of "Clark Hill" to the Dufferin Islands, and which it is said has been in use for a period of over thirty years, was found to be in need of extensive repair, two of the piers had to be entirely renewed, and the other two, which are also used as anchorage piers, were repaired and the concreting made good. The main anchorage at the west end of the bridge, besides being a faulty design, was found to be outside the limits of the Park. A new and suitable abutment was built within the Park grounds, the cables cut and properly secured thereto.

As this bridge required stiffening an additional set of cables and suspenders was put on, adding greatly to the stability of the structure; the whole of the wood and iron work was thoroughly painted.

In addition to these main travelled bridges, there are a number of smaller ones of greater or less extent, but aggregating with their approaches a length of 910 feet, which carry the numerous walks through the Dufferin Islands over streams and to rests and points of interest—these were all entirely renewed and in each case ornamental railings of cedar work provided.

The "Lover's Walk," a promenade extending for a considerable distance around the great bend of Dufferin Islands, and which rests upon the crib work designed as a protection against the erosive action of the swift current and of the ice upon the shore of the island, required very considerable outlay, but it was absolutely necessary to entirely renew the whole of the work in order to preserve the banks from further damage and maintain the island in its integrity. The platform at the cascade was also found to be in a very decayed condition and had to be rebuilt in each case, good substantial cedar railings have been erected and the crib work fully packed with large stones and carefully planked over.

Roads and Paths.

From the first inception of the Park scheme it has been considered a *sine qua non* that the dusty roadway which extended from the Clifton House hill to the museum garden should be abandoned, and the quiet contemplation of both the American and Horseshoe Falls from the many excellent points of sight along the edge of the cliff made possible to pedestrians without their being endangered by passing vehicles, or enveloped in a cloud of dust. This has now been done; a substantially built roadway of graceful alignment and easy gradients, has been constructed from the main entrance on the Clifton House hill, at a point affording convenient access for carriages approaching from either the railway station or the International Suspension Bridge, thence sweeping by an easy curve past the

Superintendent's office, and close to the large pond, where a drinking trough will be provided, by an easy and commanding route to a junction with the old road in front of the museum garden, where it is also joined by the road leading from the western entrance of the Park or Murray street. This roadway has been made eighteen feet in width throughout or fully sufficient for two carriages to pass with ease, and it has a fully gravelled walk of four feet in width on either side, separated from the carriage way by a narrow margin of sod. The sides and slopes of the paths have always been nicely trimmed and sodded, and both roadway and paths have had efficient drainage provided.

This avenue is now a marked feature of the Park, and when additional shade trees have been planted and matured, and the turn outs provided opposite the special points of interest on the edge of the cliff, the effectiveness of the improvement will be still more apparent.

South of the line of Murray street, the route of the old roadway along the river bank and through the beautifully wooded Cedar Island was found to be the most desirable, and has been followed throughout, excepting at a point just south of the second bridge on Cedar Island, where the detour was made to carry the road over a knoll commanding an extensive view of the central part of the rapids, and also affording visitors one of the most delightful of the many rainbow effects created by the ascending mists.

The old roadbed was widened in all cases to a minimum of eighteen feet, a heavy coating of gravel applied and the entire width well shaped and rolled to an even and hard surface.

In addition to the main roads, the southern entrance to the Park, which will be by the hill at the late burning spring, was carefully drained and gravelled and a strong guard rail put up along the river side of the slope. A new turn was also made at the top by which carriages ascending the hill can turn round with ease and proceed along the brow of the hill to the extreme end of the Park, thus affording a grand and comprehensive view of the surroundings of the noble river from above the head of the Rapids.

Gravelled Footways.

A broad and well built walk has been constructed along the edge of the cliff from the northerly boundary to the Table Rock, and from thence, following closely the general line of the river bank, to the Dufferin Islands a distance of one and three-fifths of a mile, where the path crosses the bridges connecting the main land with Cedar Island, separate footways will be constructed so that the pedestrians may not be endangered by passing vehicles. This pathway has been carefully rolled to an even surface and affords a continuous view of the river and of the American shore.

A great deal of labour has also been expended in repairing the many winding pathways which traverse the Dufferin Islands in every direction.

It is generally conceded that a visit to the Falls, which fails to embrace a ramble through the beautiful secluded by-ways, and over the many rustic bridges which span the tiny streams dividing this group of islets, is very incomplete, and that a very small proportion of the many thousands who come every year to contemplate the sights and enjoy the surroundings of the great Cataract have as yet known the many attractions of this delightful retreat—re-named in honour of the nobleman who first projected the scheme for reclaiming the district for public benefit.

Drainage.

The swampy parts lying to the north of the Falls have been carefully sub-drained, and the numerous springs which flow out at the base of the wooded hill

forming the natural boundary of the Park on the west, gathered to the drains in such a manner that the lands may be kept sufficiently dry for the cultivation of good sodding, in place of the rank swamp grass heretofore existing, and yet provide for the free growth of plants which are here indigenous.

No attempt has been made to reclaim the wet lands south of the Falls, but abundant culvert accommodation was provided for the out-flow under the roads and walks.

Lift.

It was early decided that the comfort and convenience of visitors wishing to experience the sensations produced by a trip under the "sheet of water" required other and better facilities than the toilsome descent and ascent of the circular wooden stairway presently in use. After careful consideration of the requirements, it was decided to erect a powerful hydraulic vertical lift; suitable location was found, but a short distance from the Falls, where the cliff is nearly vertical instead of overhanging its base by many feet.

The preparation for, and erection of a work of this kind within the scope of the spray's most potent influence was an onerous one, which only those who have experienced its paralyzing effects can appreciate.

But Mr. Fensom, of Toronto, an experienced builder of every variety of lift, to whom this work was entrusted, has succeeded in accomplishing the task; all the machinery and appliances are now in good working order.

The lift is sufficiently large to accommodate eight to ten visitors with their accompanying guides, and occupies but three-fourths of a minute in the upward or downward journey. The car runs in an open wrought iron tower of great strength and stability, designed with special reference to the requirements of the case, all its appointments have been found satisfactory.

The water required to work the lift is brought in large pipes from the river above the Falls, a distance of some four hundred feet; these pipes are laid in a channel blasted out of the compact limestone rock—a tedious and somewhat expensive work—being entirely within the limits of recurring spray. A small outlay is still required to make this work complete.

Owing to the extraordinary accumulation of ice on all exposed objects in the immediate vicinity of the Falls, it was found necessary to encase the iron tower in which the lift runs with tight wooden shutters having glazed openings for admission of light—these shutters will be removed in summer, affording on three sides an unobstructed view; visitors will be able to enjoy the unfolding of the magnificent panorama as they gently glide down, in the open cage, to the pathway under the overhanging cliffs, by which they are conducted behind the falling waters.

Buildings.

For the accommodation of some of the Park employees three of the buildings situate on the grounds have been preserved and fitted up as dwellings, viz.: the enclosed portion of the old wooden "Observatory" which stood on Cedar Island—this will be occupied by one of the gate keepers. A portion of the old "Street" mansion has been made into a residence for the head gardener, and the building at late Burning Springs, near the southern limit of the Park, will be occupied by the gate-keeper at this entrance.

The occupancy of these positions by the officials of the Park will, it is hoped, materially assist in securing good order within its bounds, and prove a check on any who may be mischievously inclined.

The brick cottage, near the principal entrance, has been fitted up for the offices of the Superintendent, its location and general arrangements being suitable for this purpose.

A large and substantially built stone structure owned by Mr. Saul Davis, known as the Museum, has not yet been vacated, but it will be in the hands of the Commissioners before the end of March. It will then be necessary to determine to what use, if any, both it and the stone building known as the Table Rock House shall be put to, or if the ends the Commissioners have in view can be better secured by removing the one or both.

The Table Rock House is so frequently deluged with spray in summer, and surcharged with accumulations of ice in winter, that it is almost impossible to keep it weather proof, and in any case a large annual outlay will be necessary for its preservation. The museum is further removed from the effects of the spray, and therefore does not require so large an outlay for its maintenance; but it cannot in any wise be described as an ornament to the Park or in harmony with its surroundings.

The materials in these buildings are of considerable value and can be advantageously used in many ways should the demolition of the structures be resolved on by the Commissioners.

Wall at the Burning Spring.

Besides the works generally described above, others of an important character have been carried to completion. The poorly constructed stone retaining wall, protecting the river bank at the end of the bridge, near southern entrance, was undermined, and in danger of falling—it has been taken down, and a heavy wall of large stones, laid in cement, substituted.

The steep bank, where the Park adjoins the grounds of the Carmelite Monastery, required careful consideration, as the outbuildings and premises at some points were endangered by the slipping of soil from under them. A stone retaining wall would have involved a large outlay, besides being of doubtful utility from an engineering point of view, owing to the peculiar nature of the soil. Crib work piers were therefore built upon a broad base, and connected by a rivetment of stout timbers, which will answer every purpose.

The abandoned roadway along the cliff, north of Murray street, was torn up, all useful stone removed, and the whole space covered over with six inches of good soil, which will be sodded, or sown with grass, in the Spring.

Many other works, small in themselves, but essential to the appearance and utility of the Park have been performed, and in each case care has been exercised to secure, as far as possible, works of a permanent character so that the cost of maintaining in the future may be reduced to a minimum.

As the Prospect House Hotel and Table Rock House properties were not vacated until late in the season, nothing could be accomplished in the way of improving the grounds occupied thereby. An auction sale of all the wooden structures connected with these properties was held on the 3rd of January, 1888, and most of them have already been removed. The filling up of depressions and removal of foundation walls and other works necessitated by the change must of course be deferred until Spring.

The improvement caused by the removal of so many unsightly and glaring structures from the immediate vicinity of the Falls will be very apparent, and when the grounds occupied by these buildings have acquired their natural condition, and a few additional trees have been planted, the change will gratify every visitor, and enhance the beauty of the scene from every point of view.

Notwithstanding all that has already been accomplished, a considerable outlay will still be required to put the works and grounds in a fair condition for future maintenance. At several points on the main land, and on Cedar Island, the shores which are exposed to the swift current require protecting by means of crib work. In some places slides have already occurred and at others the protection provided by former owners have been carried away and must be replaced if the shore is to be maintained in its present form.

The turn-outs from main driveway have also to be constructed, and connecting paths made to the path along the brink of the cliff.

Platforms and shelters are to be built at the two selected points of view on the cliff, and arbours or shelters at one or two points on the Dufferin Islands.

The western entrance roadway requires to be graded and gravelled and a pathway made to connect with the entrance from Robinson street.

As already stated, the erection of the shelters at the entrance gates has still to be provided, and conveniences for visitors erected. These items, with the balance due on works already performed, and a reasonable allowance for filling in the cellars of buildings lately sold, will require additional expenditure.

The amount expended on the works referred to in this report, to the 31st December last, including costs of superintendence, is \$26,045.93. Owing to the dismantling of the bridges in the early part of the season, and the widening and repairing of the various roads later on, the islands were of necessity closed to the public. I have not opened them since the works were completed pending instructions from the Commissioners. For the same reason, and also on account of the Lift not being in working order, no steps have been taken towards the collection of revenues required for maintenance of the Park.

The whole respectfully submitted.

JAMES WILSON,
Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1888.

The Commissioners of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to submit my report on the works accomplished within the Park, under your directions, during the past twelve months.

Before describing in detail the main features of the work of the year, permit me to make a brief reference to the scope of the operations determined on by the Commissioners.

In order to conserve to the utmost the limited means at command for the restoration of the natural scenery, and taking into account the extensive area embraced by the Park, it was considered essentially necessary that only the works immediately required for the safety or convenience of visitors, or for securing the early enjoyment of the grounds as a public park, should be taken in hand, consequently many contemplated and most desirable improvements had to be left in abeyance, and very strict economy exercised in carrying out the works that were authorized.

Severe Weather.

The winter of 1887-8 was, in this vicinity, remarkable for the amount of snow-fall and the duration of the "cold period;" this is evidenced by the unusual length of time the ice bridge remained in the gorge, viz., from January 14th to

April 4th; and although cold weather is in general a most desirable feature of our Canadian winters, yet the effects of freezing spray are so trying to all objects within the reach of its influence that a correspondingly great damage was caused to the trees and shrubs in the Park, and a considerable outlay required to remove the accumulations of ice from the vicinity of Table Rock. As an instance of the accretive power of the spray under certain climatic conditions, it may be stated that on the one inch diameter gas pipe railing at Table Rock ice was formed to a width of twenty-eight inches, and to a height of thirteen inches, by actual measurement.

Of course every object was subjected to similar influences, and where the ice itself did not form a proper support, the surcharged limbs, branches and twigs were torn off, and in many cases beautiful trees were bent over and broken.

The heavy accumulations of ice also retarded active operations in Spring, so it was comparatively late before we got properly to work.

Removal of Prospect House, etc.

The large building known as the Prospect House, together with its extensive barns and outbuildings, were disposed of by auction early in the year, and the work of demolition began. As soon as the weather permitted, filling up the large cellars and levelling and seeding down the grounds occupied by these structures followed, and by the beginning of June all the wooden buildings which had so marred the scenic beauty of the place were removed, and nature invited to resume her more perfect work.

Turn-outs.

The turn-outs from Grand Park Drive, referred to in last year's report, were constructed in order to afford visitors entering the Park in carriages a near approach to the magnificent points of sight since named "Rambler's Rest" and "Inspiration Point," where platforms and seats have been provided on the edge of the cliff, and from which unrivalled views of the entire panorama of the Falls may be enjoyed. In each case connecting pathways have been provided, and visitors are invited to leave their carriages and spend a few minutes at each place.

Gate Houses.

The erection of gate houses at the several entrances to the Park received early attention. The principal entrance opposite the Clifton House is provided with an ornamental wrought iron gate, with posts of a neat pattern. On either side are registering turn-stiles for the admission and tally of pedestrians, and the whole is protected by a suitable rustic gate house, with offices at each end for gate men. The structure is ornamental in character, and was designed to harmonize as much as possible with its surroundings. All exposed work is of cedar. The various wall surfaces are broken into panels and filled in with intricate designs carefully executed in round cedar of uniform size, the roof being underlined with herring-bone work also in round cedar, the whole presenting a neat and serviceable appearance. It has been named the "Mowat Gate," in honour of the Premier of the Province of Ontario, the Honourable Oliver Mowat.

The western entrance has a rustic gate and gate house both of cedar work, with registering turn-stiles for pedestrians. At the southern entrance, or "Dufferin Gate," the former gate-house was moved and fitted up for use, and a rustic gate, with registering turn-stiles, provided.

At Robinson Street entrance, and also, at the entrance to the Cliff walk, registering turn-stiles only have been provided, as at these points visitors on foot only, are expected to enter or leave the Park.

Light rustic coverings have been erected to protect the stiles in bad weather. These it is intended to cover with creepers of different kinds in such a manner that all wood-work will be concealed.

Footways on Cedar Island Bridges.

To ensure the safety and comfort of pedestrians, broad footways have been added to the two bridges connecting Cedar Island with the main land. By this means the walk along the cliff, south of the Cataract, and along the waters' edge, is entirely separated from the carriage road, so that visitors on foot may traverse the whole of the distance, from the Clifton House to the Dufferin Islands, without being endangered in any way by vehicles.

Hydraulic Elevator.

All the works necessary to complete the hydraulic elevator and its appurtenances, which could not be completed by the end of last year, were pushed through, and everything got in readiness for the season's work.

During the summer the efficiency of the work was thoroughly tested, as many as thirteen adults having been taken up or down at one time. Nothing has occurred to mar its perfect and continuous working, and it is hoped that the means taken to protect the machinery and tower from the effects of spray and frost, may ensure its utility throughout the winter.

The changing scene afforded by the downward or upward journey in the car is wondrously beautiful, and has been most enthusiastically dwelt upon by visitors.

In winter, when the tower is encased with wooden shutters, this fine panoramic view is not obtainable but is vastly more than compensated for by the marvelous accumulations of ice on the rocky talus or sloping river bank, and the exceedingly beautiful effects produced by the myriads of pendant icicles clinging to the ragged cliffs which overhang the pathway leading under the Falls. In the morning, when the rays of the sun are reflected by a thousand of these fantastic marble-like creations of the spray, impressions are made in the mind that can never be eradicated.

At the foot of the elevator a broad platform has been constructed for the convenience of those not desiring to approach nearer to the Falls. From this platform excellent views of the gorge and both Falls are to be had, and good opportunity is afforded for the very interesting study of the geological formation of the banks.

Drinking Fountains.

Six drinking fountains have been provided, five of them being fed by the perennial springs flowing out of the high wooded bank which flanks the Park in the west. These fountains are distributed at convenient points near the main thoroughfares, and have been much appreciated by the travelling public.

A drinking trough for horses, supplied with spring water, has been placed at a convenient point.

Opening of the Park.

The chief works of construction having been well advanced by the middle of May, the by-laws and regulations for the government of the Park were published, the several gate-keepers assigned to their respective positions, and on the

24th day of May, the sixty-ninth anniversary of the birth of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, the grounds were thrown open to the general public. For various reasons the Commissioners decided not to have a demonstration on the occasion. Shortly after this, however, many of the leading citizens expressed a desire to manifest their appreciation of the establishment of the Park by providing a grand civil and military display in honour of the event, and subscribed liberally to a fund for that purpose. The celebration was held on the 21st of June, when no fewer than 12,855 visitors witnessed the pageant and roamed at will over the property. The Commissioners placed the whole of the grounds at the disposal of the citizen's committee, and also reduced the charges to go under the Falls to a merely nominal sum. Notwithstanding the numbers and consequent crowding at points of special interest, no accident of any kind occurred to mar the pleasurable recollections of the day.

Of course the formal opening of the Park to the public did not by any means indicate that all works of restoration were to be considered in a completed state. A work of this nature can never be said to be completed, as in addition to works of maintenance proper there will be always opportunities for improving and modifying the physical characteristics and of producing greater harmony both of kind and degree in the various accessories; but in this case many works essential to the utility of the Park remain to be done, as want of time necessitated large portions of the grounds being left undrained and unimproved.

What could be accomplished, in addition to the numerous works of maintenance, without involving much expense was undertaken; and a reference may here be made to some of the improvements effected.

Improvements Effected.

Murray street and the grounds lying south of it as far as the Table Rock were drained and put into shape. The plank pathway south of Murray street was replaced by a gravel walk, in keeping with the other portions of the property. At Table Rock the conveniences for viewing the Falls were extended and improved, and the railing made more secure. The enclosed building at the foot of the old "Observatory" on Cedar Island, and the rough-cast building in the picnic garden was fitted up for residences for the gate-keepers. Cobble stone gutters were laid along the main driveway in front of and on either side of the refreshment room. Extensive operations for the protection of the eastern shore of Cedar Island from erosion were well begun, and the guy ropes and fastenings of suspension bridges made secure.

The character of the old museum garden was greatly changed, and its enclosures and obstructions removed. The large stone building adjoining the Table Rock house was lowered and changed into a drive shed for the protection of carriage horses in wet weather while the visitors are under the Falls.

These are all works essential to the proper enjoyment of the property or to its preservation, and in each case the general appearance of things has been materially improved by their being carried out.

Perhaps, however, the most valuable of the works of restoration accomplished during the year, and one that has greatly improved the views from many points both within and without the grounds, has been the grading, terracing and sodding of the extensive spoil bank of the Canada Southern Railway, opposite the lower end of Cedar Island. This most important work was executed by the railway authorities under an agreement of an exceedingly favourable nature made by the Commissioners. Unfortunately the wet and backward season prevented the sods knitting together properly, and the trying nature of the soil (quicksand with

numerous springs) has caused portions of it to leave its place, still on the whole the result has been very gratifying, and with a little labour and attention next spring the work will doubtless be permanently beneficial.

Planting out Trees and Shrubs.

Notwithstanding all these various undertakings the very important work of planting out suitable trees and shrubs has not been neglected. This is a branch of our work that is of vital importance, as the beauty and value of the premises for all time to come must depend, in large measure, on the judicious selection and intelligent arrangement of the many species of trees and shrubs which may be found best adapted to the varying conditions presented in our extensive domain.

During the past season only a limited attention could be given to this important work, but notwithstanding the urgency of other duties, about four hundred trees and flowering shrubs have been placed in carefully selected positions. As many of these are already well developed, they will be of immediate use for shade or ornament, a most important factor when it is remembered that some sections of the property are destitute of foliage. Where enclosures were desirable, hedges of suitable kinds have been planted, and a large number of vines and creepers have been placed in needy spots.

By reference to the appendix it will be seen that a large number of the most thrifty varieties are embraced.

This locality has long been renowned for its abundant and very luxuriant supply of flora. A catalogue recently prepared by a gentleman residing in Buffalo, the Honourable Mr. Day, enumerates no fewer than nine hundred and nine species of "flowering and fern-like plants growing without cultivation in the vicinity of the Falls of Niagara." A very large proportion of these are to be found within the immediate limits of the Park. This is strong testimony to the favourable conditions existing here for the development of plant life, and indicates the desirability of introducing many species of ornamental trees and shrubs not at present grown in Canada.

Visitors entering the Park.

From the 24th of May to the end of the year, the number of people entering the Park has been 213,874, or an average of nearly one thousand per day. Of this total number, 127,254 were in carriages and 86,620 on foot. Irrespective of the occasion of the military display, on the 21st of June, the largest number on any one day was 4,272, on August the 22nd, and the least number 137, on December the 18th.

No difficulty whatever was experienced in maintaining order, and so far as known, there has been no accident of any kind during the season's operations.

It was confidently expected that the majority of visitors would avail themselves of the opportunity of their visit to see the upper portion of the Park, including the rapids and cascades, and of enjoying the many delightful rambles and retreats which have been provided on the Dufferin Islands. Events proved, however, that a very large proportion of visitors were entirely ignorant of what was to be seen or enjoyed beyond the face of the Cataract, and it also speedily became apparent that active hostility on the part of a large number of hackmen would be encountered. It goes without saying that a large proportion of the visitors to the Falls place themselves entirely under the guidance of the hackman they may by chance engage to take them to see the many special features of the place. Before the establishment of the Park, large commissions were paid by the private individuals controlling the best means of access to some of these

specially attractive features, and the hackmen were thus pecuniarily interested in taking their patrons to these points exclusively. Now, of course, all the inducements of this nature have been removed from the Park, and hackmen are prohibited from soliciting for passengers within the grounds. These limitations of the perquisites and privileges formerly attached to the calling have not at all been received in a friendly spirit, but many of the hackmen manifest a lively spirit of retaliation, and have with, it must be confessed, a considerable measure of success, diverted the stream of travel from two principal sources of income we now possess, viz., the trip under the Falls and the upper reaches of the Park, for which a greatly reduced fee is charged. Doubtless, when the Commissioners assume control of the "points of interest" further down the river, and the opportunities for receiving commissions for taking visitors to view nature's wonders are not available, this most unreasonable opposition will cease, and the unrivalled attractions of the islands and upper rapids will be duly appreciated, and something like an adequate return received.

Another cause which led to the comparatively small number of visitors to this portion of the Park was the unlooked for, and in some cases, very unfair spirit of antagonism to the tolls charged, which speedily manifested itself in a large and influential section of the press, and in several instances, antagonism to the tolls, developed into misstatements of a grave character. Doubtless, this was often done in ignorance of the magnitude of the works accomplished by the Commissioners or the extent of territory that had been acquired and opened, entirely without charge, to the public use; but in many instances it is exceedingly difficult to account for the palpable misstatements of facts by journals whose accredited agents must have been better informed.

Of the whole area embraced by the Park, by far the largest portion is entirely free to any and all who may desire to enter, the only restrictions being the customary rules for the preservation of order. This "free" portion embraces all the lands lying along the river bank from the Clifton House to Cedar Island, and extending from the river to near the top of the wooded bluff on the west. All the best views of the Horseshoe and American Falls are to be had within this territory.

Before the establishment of the Park the only privileges enjoyed by the public were confined to the narrow and exceedingly dusty or muddy roadway along the edge of the cliff.

This large extent of property which has been acquired and made free to all, has been vastly improved, and every facility for the enjoyment of visitors provided, yet all this is manifestly lost sight of in the attempt to secure entire immunity from tolls or charges of any kind; and in the evident desire to prejudice the minds of the public, statements have been freely made that no portion of the Park could be entered, or any of its attractions enjoyed, without payment of a fee. Excursionists were also advised that games of any kind were prohibited within the grounds, and efforts were made to induce them to go elsewhere.

Notwithstanding all these evil influences a number of excursionists did come, and every one of these went away highly delighted with their visit, and expressing an intention of returning year by year.

It is greatly to be regretted that the facilities for reaching the Park from Lake Ontario are so badly arranged. One very large excursion, desirous of coming to the Park, from Toronto, was obliged to land at Lewiston and run up by rail on the American side, then cross over the upper suspension bridge in order to avoid a lengthy delay at Niagara for railway connections. A number of other excursions were lost to us by this somewhat vexatious and indefensible arrangement. Those who did come, irrespective of these delays and drawbacks,

were usually too weary or their time was too limited to permit of them walking beyond the Falls proper.

All these things militated against the success of the Park, and especially of the upper or islands portion.

Folder.

As a means of counteracting to some extent at least, the prejudiced oppositions of hackmen and others, it was considered desirable to issue an illustrated "folder" giving authoritative information on many of the physical characteristics of the Cataract and its accessories, and pointing out the chief features of the locality, and the best points for viewing the various attractions. This work necessarily required considerable time for its preparation, and it was late in the season before it could be made of use. The occupants of every carriage now entering the Park receive a copy, and it is also exhibited at convenient points for the guidance of pedestrians. The folder is very attractive in appearance, and seems to be highly valued by those receiving it, as it is invariably preserved as a souvenir. There is every reason to expect that next season's returns will exhibit a marked increase in revenue, owing to the issue of this little guide.

Line of Busses.

Owing to the great length of the Park grounds, extending as they do along the bank of the river for a distance of two and a half miles, it was found necessary to provide a means of communication that would be at once cheap and efficient. As an experiment a line of busses was put on, running from the Mowat Gate to the Dufferin Gate, every thirty minutes, and affording patrons an opportunity of stopping off at any point *en route*, and resuming the journey by any subsequent buss. The charge made was only twenty-five cents for the return trip. This scheme appeared to answer all present requirements, but as it was not put in operation until September, it can hardly be said to have received a sufficient trial.

Refreshments.

The comfort and convenience of visitors and especially of those travelling on excursion tickets, required that some provision be made for the supply of suitable refreshments, as owing to the great distance of all the points of chief interest within the Park from hotel or restaurants, families were put to much inconvenience. A portion of the building formerly used as a museum was fitted up for the purpose, and counter refreshments supplied at reasonable rates.

The franchise was only granted as an experiment, and until the end of the year. It will be advisable to continue the arrangement, under such restrictions as the Commissioners may consider to be necessary.

The total amount expended on the works and improvements during the year, and including cost of superintendence and maintenance, is \$25,920.37.

Appendices shewing the number of visitors for the several months, receipts etc. etc. have been attached.

The whole respectfully submitted,

JAMES WILSON,
Superintendent.

MEMORANDA OF TREES AND SHRUBS PLANTED OUT IN 1888.

210 yards run of Privet Hedge.	4 Viburnum or Snow Ball.
99 " " Spruce " (Norway).	17 " " Snow Berry.
27 " " Berberry " (Scarlet).	13 Wiegela Rosca.
31 " " Elderberry Hedge.	2 " " Variegated.
2 Quince trees.	3 Viburnum Opulis or High Cranberry.
32 Elm " Dover.	1 Almond Pink, double.
63 Maple " Sugar.	1 Poeny tree, double.
16 " " Silver leafed.	1 Euonymus Strawberry or Spindle tree.
2 Dogwood " Red.	1 Trumpet Flower Vine.
34 Horse Chestnut trees.	2 Forsythea Viridissima or Golden Bell.
2 Basswood "	3 Berberry.
102 Willow trees, laurel leafed.	2 Red Cedar.
3 Spruce " Norway.	13 Lilac, various.
12 Catalpa Speciosa.	12 Mountain Ash.
6 Pine Wellingtoniensis.	1 Walnut.
2 Privet Californian.	3 White Cedar.
24 Quince-Japan, scarlet.	1 Tartarian Honeysuckle.
2 Spirea Bilardii.	113 Vines of various kinds.
12 " Prunifolia-Flore Pleno.	
6 Syringa Coronarius.	

QUEEN VICTORIA NIAGARA FALLS PARK.

RETURN OF VISITORS FROM MAY 24TH TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1888.

1888. MONTHS.	MOWAT GATE.			MURRAY ST. GATE.			ROBINSON STREET.	DUFFERIN GATE.			Total number of Visitors.
	Number of Carriages.	Visitors in Carriages.	Visitors on Foot.	Number of Carriages.	Visitors in Carriages.	Visitors on Foot.	Passengers on Foot.	Number of Carriages.	Visitors in Carriages.	Visitors on Foot.	
May 24th to 31st	422	1,444	2,301	80	232	297	134	7	26	11	4,535
June.....	3,982	14,735	12,880	378	1,211	1,617	1,274	53	253	110	32,080
July.....	8,023	29,479	15,104	470	1,698	1,465	1,371	35	110	56	49,283
August.....	8,193	32,411	18,920	599	2,196	1,939	1,559	46	159	52	57,236
September.....	6,179	22,464	9,904	496	1,748	1,251	1,070	45	139	39	36,615
October.....	2,728	9,172	4,933	339	1,018	931	835	10	27	26	16,942
November.....	1,472	4,481	2,960	290	759	917	774	4	14	8	9,913
December	1,106	3,075	2,859	167	395	658	264	3	8	11	7,270
Totals	32,105	117,261	69,951	2,819	9,257	9,075	7,281	203	736	313	213,874

QUEEN VICTORIA NIAGARA FALLS PARK.

NAMES OF OFFICERS APPOINTED THEREIN AND THE SALARIES PAID EACH.

NAMES	NATURE OF APPOINTMENT.	RATE OF SALARY.
1. James Wilson, C. E.....	Superintendent.....	\$2,000 00 per year and house.
2. James Quillinan	Accountant.....	800 00 per year and house rent.
3. Roderick Cameron	Gardener.....	600 00 per year and free house.
4. William Bowman	Policeman.....	2 00 per diem.
5. Walter Waite.....	Gatekeeper	1 50 " and free house.
6. James Wilcox.....	"	1 50 " and house rent.
7. Willas W. Whistler	"	1 50 " and free house.
8. Joseph Wynn.....	"	1 50 " "
9. Thomas Wilson.....	"	1 50 " and house rent.



